

CONGRATULATING MR. JOSEPH  
BERRIOS

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 9, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Joseph Berrios on his appointment as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party.

On February 1, 2007, Mr. Joseph Berrios was elected by the Cook County Democratic Party to the position of Chairman—the first time a member of the Hispanic community has held that title.

We will all miss the man that Mr. Berrios is replacing, Tom Lyons, but the Cook County Democratic Party is in outstanding hands with its new leader at the helm.

In 1988, Mr. Joseph Berrios was elected as a commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review and has served honorably for 18 years.

As the Democratic committeeman of the 31st Ward on Chicago's northwest side, Mr. Joseph Berrios vowed to revamp the party's committee structure and to encourage more participation from minorities and suburban Democrats.

The Cook County Democratic Party has a long and illustrious tradition of working to represent the people of Cook County in Illinois. The election of Joseph Berrios as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party helps further realize the mission of a more integrated Illinois community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Joseph Berrios on his election as Chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party, and I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW HELM  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 9, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Helm, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Helm for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING WILLYE WHITE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 9, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, athlete Willye White.

Willye B. White was born on December 31, 1939, in Money, Mississippi. She was raised by her grandparents in Greenville, Mississippi. White used athletics as her escape from working in the cotton fields for her grandparents. In high school, she spent summers training with famed track and field coach Ed Temple at Tennessee State University.

By age 16, Willye White was on the 1956 U.S. Olympic Team competing in Melbourne, Australia, where she won a silver medal in the long jump. She was the first American woman to win a medal in that event. She won a second silver medal in 1964 as a member of the 4x100 meter relay team in Tokyo. Willye White competed on five U.S. Olympic teams consecutively from 1956–1972.

White, a longtime Chicago-area resident, credited her experience as an athlete with allowing her to see beyond the racism and hatred that surrounded her as a child. She grew up before the civil rights movement, so before the Olympics, she thought that the whole world consisted of cross burnings and lynching. She reported to Sports Illustrated magazine that, "The Olympic movement taught me not to judge a person by the color of their skin but by the contents of their hearts," and that "I am who I am because of my participation in sports."

She was a member of more than 30 international track and field teams and won a dozen Amateur Athletic Union long jump titles in her career, according to USA Track & Field, which inducted her into its Hall of Fame in 1981. White was inducted into 11 sports halls of fame, including the Black Sports Hall of Fame, the National Sports Track and Field Hall of Fame, and the Women's Sports Foundation International Hall of Fame. In 1999, Sports Illustrated for Women named her one of the 100 greatest women athletes in the 20th century.

After retiring from competitions, she dedicated her life to helping the underprivileged and less fortunate. She became a nurse and earned a degree in public health administration from Chicago State University. White coached, lectured and served as president of the Midwest chapter of the U.S. Olympians for 12 years. In 1991, she established the Willye White Foundation to help youth develop self-esteem and become productive citizens within the community. She also received her honorary Doctor of Humanity Degree from Springfield College in 1999.

Willye White died on February 6, 2007, of pancreatic cancer at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Willye White was a pioneer for African Americans and women, by becoming the first American woman to win a gold medal in the long jump. She was a Philanthropist, who used her life experiences to help improve others' lives.

ADVANCED FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
ACT

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 9, 2007*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 547, the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure and Development Act of 2007.

This is indeed timely and critically needed legislation to improve the use of alternative fuels such as E85 ethanol or biodiesel. We've made great strides in developing alternative fuels, but one critical problem always remains. Simply put: we can produce all the ethanol we want, but if the local gas station can't put it in their storage tank, then you will never be able to put it in your car.

During the last Congress, I had the honor of serving with Congresswoman STEPHANIE HERSETH as a co-chair or the Democratic Rural Working Group. Working with leaders like Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON and Speaker PELOSI, we identified biofuels as a win-win for America's energy needs. Some states have already begun their own initiatives to make their infrastructure compatible to alternative fuels such as E85, but we need a nationwide effort in order to make these fuels viable as a real alternative.

Anyone who has filled up a gas tank in the past year knows that gas prices are highly volatile and too high for the average American. As a former North Carolina small businessman, and a part time farmer, I believe that it is our duty to find alternatives to what has become a dangerous reliance on foreign oil.

Our Nation has the capability to gain its energy independence. We possess the technology and the ability to turn the crops growing in our fields into the fuels we need to power our economy.

H.R. 547 will help accomplish this by developing the infrastructure we need to make fuels like E85 and biodiesel viable alternatives. This legislation will direct the Environmental Protection Agency to perform research and development into the infrastructure improvements needed to facilitate the proper use and transportation for fuels such as E85 ethanol and biodiesel. H.R. 547 will provide for research into existing issues that such as alternative fuel and equipment computability with existing fuel dispersment facilities and automotive technologies.

Mr. Chairman, making these fuels available to the American consumer is the first step towards making them a real alternative to foreign oil. I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 547.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
GENOMIC RESEARCH AND ACCESS-  
SIBILITY ACT

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 9, 2007*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the hope of fixing what I believe to be a regulatory mistake—a mistake that at first